

To: Senator Hansen, Chair, and Members of Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

From: Linda Deneen

RE: SB 4781, 4782 and 4783

Date: October 11, 2017

The technology that has heralded the advent of the eBike, like most technologies, carries with it both positives and negatives depending on the users and the usage. In a short time, the popularity of eBike usage has made significant growth. We believe that guidelines need to be in place that not encourage and nurture this expansion of access, but also foster and support the environment and promote healthy lifestyles

As this technology has progressed, regarding capacity, style and function of eBikes, we are supportive of TART's draft position on eBikes for the local trail system in this community-based effort that more clearly defines eBike usage. It is important to note that TART's trail system was purchased and constructed by local contributors; local control over the use of the trails in that locality is essential. TART Trails, Inc. recognizes eBikes requiring active pedaling as a compatible means to enjoy and utilize multiuse trails with equal access.

We also applaud the efforts of this committee on behalf of eBike users in our state by supporting SB 4781, 4782 and 4783 for the most part. However, Class 2 cycles are really motorized vehicles because active pedaling is not needed for propulsion.

As cyclists ourselves, we are well aware of cycling operational safety and etiquette issues, rules and regulations, rights and responsibilities. We are glad that eBike riders are subject to the same requirements that apply to individuals riding a bicycle.

How does this impact me? Prior to purchasing my eBike two years ago, I met with TART's Director to ensure my compliance with any directives, regulations, etc. regarding using eBikes on the TART system. Even without relying on the Americans with Disabilities Act, I was pleased to know I would be welcomed on the trails.

What joy this has brought me! Being able to ride again and participate with friends and family in a beloved sport with my pedal assisted eBike has returned to me a huge part of my life I believed was gone forever.